

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claims 1-15 (Canceled).**

**Claim 16 (Currently Amended):** ~~The~~ An image output apparatus ~~in accordance with claim~~

14 for outputting an image using image data indicative of the image and associated

photographing information set at a generation of the image data, wherein

the photographing information includes light metering mode information on a light metering mode, wherein

the image output apparatus comprising:

a picture quality adjusting unit that performs a picture quality adjustment on the image, the picture quality adjustment being for which a degree of an adjustment of lightness and contrast of whole image is reduced based on the photographing information if the photographing information indicates that the light metering mode measures part of the image; and

an outputting unit that outputs an image adjusted by the picture quality adjusting unit,

wherein the picture quality adjusting unit is configured to perform the picture quality adjustment without the lightness and contrast adjustment if the photographing information indicates that the light metering mode measures part of the image.

**Claim 17 (Canceled).**

**Claim 18 (Currently Amended):** ~~The~~ An image output apparatus in accordance with claim 17 for outputting an image using image data indicative of the image and associated photographing information set at a generation of the image data, wherein

the photographing information includes light metering mode information on a light metering mode, wherein

the image output apparatus comprising:

a picture quality adjusting unit that performs a picture quality adjustment on the image, the picture quality adjustment being for which a degree of an adjustment of lightness and contrast of whole image is reduced based on the photographing information if the photographing information indicates that the light metering mode measures part of the image; and

an outputting unit that outputs an image adjusted by the picture quality adjusting unit, wherein

the light metering mode information represents one of a plurality of metering methods including averaged metering, center-weighted metering, spot metering, multi-spot metering, divisional light metering, and partial light metering.

the information indicating that the light metering mode measures part of the image is information indicating spot metering, multi-spot metering, divisional light metering, and partial light metering, and

the picture quality adjusting unit is configured to provide a user interface for allowing a user to adjust the degree of lightness and contrast adjustment if the light metering mode information indicates the center-weighted metering.

**Claims 19 and 20 (Canceled).**